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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Silent tension grows Between US, Turkey - Sabah  
Parliamentary HR Committee: US commits 'genocide' in Iraq - Aksam  
Nicosia signals vote for EU-Turkey entry talks - Hurriyet  
Soros warns of looming economic crisis in second Bush term - Sabah  
Israel concerned that 'Arafatism' may continue - Milliyet  
Walesa supports 'Orange Revolution' in Kiev - Hurriyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

Iraq tension between US, Turkey - Radikal  
Dep. PM Sahin: Turkey's economic presence in Iraq to continue - Cumhuriyet  
Heavy fighting prevents Red Cross convoy from entering Fallujah - Yeni Safak  
BBC's Iraq reporter: Conditions in Fallujah a 'disaster' - Yeni Safak  
Resistance fighters take 60 percent of Fallujah back from US forces - Yeni Safak  
Pentagon board warns: US is losing Muslim world - Zaman  
Hawks warn Bush that US has 'lost the war' - Yeni Safak  
Barghouti to run for Palestine presidential elections - Cumhuriyet  
Israel may pardon Barghouti - Zaman  
A 'toughening' Yushchenko calls for general strike in Ukraine - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Ankara's Iraq tension with US: The AK Party's increasing criticism of US policies over Iraq has stirred tension between Ankara and Washington, papers report. On Thursday, the US Embassy in Ankara reacted to charges by parliamentary human rights committee chairman Elkatmis that the US is carrying out 'genocide' in Iraq and may have used nuclear weapons in the Fallujah operation. A US embassy source termed the charge 'ridiculous,' adding that such statements have the potential to damage U-Turkish relations. Elkatmis said that the 'genocide' and 'savagery' carried out by the US in Iraq has surpassed what was done by the Pharaohs, Hitler and Mussolini.' Elkatmis said that the 'violence, barbarism and terror must be brought to an end.' He claimed that 'what is done in Iraq constitutes a crime against humanity.' Parliamentary Speaker Bulent Arinc also criticized the US for 'violating international law in Fallujah.' In response to Elkatmis' reference to 'genocide,' US Embassy sources noted that 'Turks rightly display sensitivity to the use of the word genocide, which has nothing at all to do with what is happening in Iraq.' The embassy source noted that one of the goals of the operation in Fallujah was to root out the groups responsible for the killing of Turkish drivers and contractors in Iraq. The embassy source also stressed that reports about US forces using cluster bombs in Fallujah were false. 'Turks may have been among those who were killed in the slaughterhouses found by US forces in Fallujah,' he added.

Ankara vows to continue economic presence in Iraq: Deputy PM Mehmet Ali Sahin said Thursday that Turkey's economic activities in Iraq has become a 'lifeline' for the Iraqi people, adding that the Turkish government is determined to continue those activities. Despite the fact that Turkey has lost more lives than some coalition member troops in the region, Sahin said, 'our support for the Iraqi people will continue.' Sahin also characterized the recent US operation in Fallujah as a 'massacre.' US loses 'war of ideas': A Pentagon report submitted to Secretary Rumsfeld said that although the US won the

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military battle in Iraq, it has lost the war of ideas. US diplomatic and military activities are not adequately explained in the Islamic world, the report stressed. The report said the US has mistakenly viewed Muslims as similar to those terrorized under the Soviet regime. The report notes that in Muslim nations, "there are no masses waiting to be liberated."

FM Gul may visit Israel: On a regular visit to Ankara, Israeli foreign ministry U/S Ron Prosor told his Turkish counterpart Ali Tuygan about Israeli expectations of Ankara's contribution to the upcoming January 9 elections in Palestine. Tuygan said FM Gul could visit Israel if he is invited and his schedule permits. Papers note that a visit by Gul to Israel seems unlikely before 2005. Acting FM Mehmet Ali Sahin advised Prosor to ensure that Palestinians in East Jerusalem are allowed to participate in Palestinian elections, and to launch new peace talks with Syria and Lebanon.

US does not "trust" Turkey on Iran: US official institutions, based on the Iraq experience, do not believe Ankara will side with Washington in a possible crisis with Iran, "Hurriyet" reports from Washington. US sources said that Washington has asked Ankara to enter into a "constructive" engagement with Tehran in an effort to help halt a growing nuclear crisis. Thus far, nothing has been conveyed to the US regarding contacts between Ankara and Tehran. The US may eventually seek permission to use Turkish airspace or military bases for an airstrike against selected targets in Iran, but Washington is inclined to believe that Turkey will not accept such a request, "Hurriyet" notes.

Nicosia wants to open consulate in Istanbul: Turkish papers cite the Greek Cypriot daily "Politis" as claiming that the Greek Cypriot administration has applied to the European Commission to pressure Ankara for allowing a Greek Cypriot consulate. The consulate would facilitate visa procedures for Greek Cypriot nationals who visit Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Ukraine; Israel-Palestine

"The Hands of the US are Everywhere"  
Emin Pazarcı argued in the conservative-sensational "DB Tercuman" (11/26): "The US is in the process of establishing a new world order, and it is happening not only by the power of American military but also by the power of money and politics. The occupation of Iraq is only a recent example that began with military power and now continues with political propaganda. The propaganda is so powerful that the US has managed to claim that everyone who has stood against the Americans is a terrorist. . Following the Georgia case, where political rule was transferred to a pro-American figure, Ukraine is the latest example of efforts to reshape the world based on Washington's interests. The Russian-backed Prime Minister Yanukovich and the US-backed Yushchenko are competing. The election results indicate a victory for the former, yet Yanukovich's fate seems to be no different than Georgian or Serbian leaders. The Ukrainians are marching to voice support for Yushchenko, as are intellectuals and NGOs. It looks like the eventual winner of this election will be Yushchenko. That means the Ukrainian elections will be one more victory for the US."

"Jerusalem, the Obstacle for Peace"  
Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-political "Dunya" (11/26): "Arafat is not with us any longer. According to the West, the biggest obstacle before a peace settlement is has now been removed. The expectation would be that, with the elections in Palestine at the beginning of the next year, a new leader will take over the Palestine Authority and will sign a peace agreement with Israel. It is not known whether these people believe in this plan, but at least their expectations lie in this direction. No one should have high hopes on this issue. No matter how strongly the new leader supports peace, it is not possible for Arab-Israeli peace to be established as long as Israel refuses to give east Jerusalem back to Palestine. This is territory that was occupied during the 1967 war. In fact, the main aim of the Palestinians is to have east Jerusalem as the capital of the independent state they are going to establish."

EDELMAN